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TALON



Sante Fe takes over the reins

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TALON

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From the editor ...

On behalf of the Task Force Eagle Public Affairs Office, greet-ings and welcome to Eagle Base and Stabilization Force 13.

The TFE-PAO this rotation brings together the 35th Infantry Division's PAO and the 343rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, a U.S. Army Reserve unit from Arkansas.

I would like everyone to know the PAO exists for one reason — to tell *your* story — the soldier's story. It is our job to let people back home, as well as your fellow soldiers here, know what America's soldiers are doing. Our job is to cover as much of the Multinational Brigade (North) as is reasonably possible.

If you have an event planned, training scheduled, or soldiers in your unit with unusual talents or hobbies, send me an email or give me a call. We are always open to storylines. Please try to give me a week's notice if possible. With as small a staff that I have, the schedule fills up fast.

I know there are some of you who have interests outside of your chosen military profession. If one of those happens to be writing or photography, let me know. We can put those skills to work and get you some credit for your talents. Articles will be edited for content and size. A good article will have a good opening paragraph to grab the reader's attention, good flow to the article, and a good closing paragraph.

Photos need a cutline: Who, what, when, where and why. Include rank, unit and hometown of anyone identified in articles and photos. Feel free to call us if you have any questions about writing or shooting for us.

Finally, if you have the desire, we welcome "Letters to the Editor." Tell us how we are doing; tell us what you'd like to see in the *Talon*. It's a new editor and staff. We have some ideas, not necessarily better, just different.

Check out the back cover to see who we are.

Once again, welcome to SFOR 13, we look forward to telling *your* story.

Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

***Literature is the art of writing
something that will be read twice;
journalism what will be read once.***
-- Cyril Connolly (1903 - 1974)

Web site for Operation Iraqi Freedom
<http://www.army.mil/operations/iraq/faq.html>



About the cover: MNB (N) commander Brig. Gen. James R. "Ron" Mason, left, and Command Sgt. Maj. David Wright unfurl the 35th Infantry Division (Mechanized) colors during the Transfer of Authority ceremony.
by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson.

This week in SFOR history

March 29, 1996

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter Chelsea visited Task Force Eagle soldiers, along with comedian Sinbad and singer Sheryl Crow.

March 28, 1997

Members of Company A, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, visited the Russian 1st Airborne Artillery Battalion at Priboj. The soldiers from the two countries had the opportunity to become familiar with each other's artillery equipment.

March 27, 1998

Members of Company C, 2nd Brigade, 6th Infantry, 1st Armored Division, participated in 1st Armored Division Olympics, a competition of physically and mentally demanding tasks.

March 26, 1999

Draginja Randjelovic, a native from Tuzla, Bosnia watched her son, Spc. Sasa Randjelovic re-enlist in the U.S. Army. Sasa moved to the U.S. in 1994, and joined the Army in 1996 and was back as part of SFOR.

March 29, 2002

On the night of March 16, about 450 guests, including 150 soldiers of Stabilization Force 10, experienced Bosnian music in various forms in a Friendship and Cooperation Concert, held in the Bosnian Armed Forces' II Corps office and officers' club in Tuzla.

Correction:

In the March 14 issue, Task Force Med Eagle dentist Col. David Thomas was incorrectly identified in a photo. We apologize for any inconvenience and regret the error.

Friday, March 28, 2003

Mason: 'Dignity and respect' vital



Brig. Gen. James R. "Ron" Mason

Commander's comments

The soldiers of MNB(N) and SFOR-13 come from many different backgrounds, ethnicities and nations. The headquarters element and Task Force Eagle is sourced and manned primarily from the Santa Fe Division, 35th Infantry Division (Mechanized). The task of becoming a team of teams is a daunting one in itself, without any other challenges.

As we all know there are many other challenges in the Balkans. The many months of training "on the road to Bosnia" has prepared us well for many of the challenges.

Regardless of our training, none of us are totally prepared for the environment we

find ourselves in when we step onto Eagle Base to begin the final segment of our journey, to become a peace support task force.

We must remember the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina have invited us into their country. This invitation came through their elected officials via the General Framework and Agreement For Peace.

We are obliged to build upon the successes of those who've come before us. We can learn much from our multinational partners and the international community. A priority task to learn is how to be safe. One only has to view the "Danger-Mines" and UXO signs everywhere to realize the constant danger inherent in the environment.

Yes, we will work with the armed forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They are not our enemies. This is a peace support mission. The larger majority of the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina are ready to cooperate with SFOR and welcome the SFOR presence in their communities.

As you move among the population to conduct your duties, I urge you to demonstrate your capabilities to be professional soldiers. I urge you as individuals and units to be vigilant in carrying out your duties

with force protection woven into every task.

Your vigilance, professionalism, and persistence in following the procedures taught in training is your greatest asset for force protection. In training, we have been taught to be fair and evenhanded when implementing the GFAP.

A good rule to follow is to treat others with the dignity and respect we would want to receive when we come into contact with others in diverse situations. We will also treat each other with dignity and respect.

Violations of stated policies on use of alcohol, sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, or fraternization will not be tolerated. Leaders at all levels must not even give the perception of condoning any of these violations.

As peace support soldiers we should all be interested in the success of others.

Success for us will be

advancing the goals of this nation toward further compliance with GFAP and greater stability as a unified nation.

If we can work together toward that goal, I believe every soldier can go home with great stories of success for MNB(N) and a feeling of great personal accomplishment.

"We can learn much from our multinational partners and the international community."

Mentor others to success, says Mason

Positive role models expect nothing but the best

**by Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Covington
343rd MPAD**

Brig. Gen. Ron Mason has one primary goal in this rotation: He wants the soldiers of Stabilization Force 13 to be able to go home confident in their contribution here.

Although this rotation is smaller than previous ones, Mason remains confident its soldiers will meet the challenge.

"There is a measure for desire, and that is if a person volunteers," said Mason, commander, Multinational Brigade (North). "(Most) of the soldiers of SFOR 13 are volunteers. That says a lot about them (and) they have a skill set and a talent that is very much needed."

As many others in SFOR 13, Mason began his military career as a private. He enlisted in January 1972, and after two years of service in the communications field, and achieving sergeant stripes, he was afforded the opportunity to go to Of-

ficer Candidate School.

Mason was raised in a family with little money and learned that joy does not necessarily come from wealth.

"I feel like I am rich in lots of ways," Mason said, crediting his parents and the neighbors of his hometown in Middlesboro, Ky. for instilling in him the values that remain with him today.

With positive role models in his own life, Mason understands the importance of mentorship. One of those role models was a high school drafting teacher named Jerry Browning.

He took Mason on school trips that opened a new world and created a desire that allowed the future general to strive to greater heights.

Mason went to college and received a degree in drafting. He taught at a local technical school for 14 years, until he was asked to be the principal. His last civilian job was director of a satellite campus of 1,200 students.

Three other people inspired and mentored the general in his adult life: His

pastor, Murphy Buell, his civilian supervisor, Dr. Odell Wilson, and the commander of the 35th Infantry Division, Maj. Gen. Gene Krase. Not because of the positions they hold, but because they are positive people, expecting nothing but the best from others.

Mason says he watches and emulates these people.

"I have a theory that people don't go anywhere or do anything without allies," Mason said. "No man is an island."

Mason said that the higher he rises in rank, the more he appreciates the skills of his subordinates.

Since he views the SFOR 13 mission as an exercise in small-unit leadership, Mason realizes that his success as a commander depends, in a large part, on his junior leaders.

"I think our NCOs, small unit leaders, and lieutenants will grow immensely during this rotation," said Mason.

"I think the bulk of the work is on their shoulders, and I believe they will be up to the task."

35th Infantry Division (Mechanized)

by Master Sgt.
D. Keith Johnson
343rd MPAD

The passing of the colors has been an Army tradition probably as long as the U.S. Army has been around. That tradition repeated itself Monday with the transfer of authority for the northern sector of the Stabilization Force from the 28th Infantry Division (Mechanized) to the 35th Infantry Division (Mechanized). Brig. Gen. John T. von Trott passed both the flag and responsibility of the Multinational Brigade (North) in Bosnia and Herzegovina to Brig. Gen. James R. "Ron" Mason.

"It's been my distinct honor and true privilege to command this force," said von Trott. He noted the contributions of all of the nations involved in SFOR 12. "Working with you soldiers has been one of the finest experiences in my life," said von Trott, who will return to his position as the deputy commander for maneuver for the 28th.

Mason noted the progress the SFOR rotations have made in making a safe and secure environment for the people of BiH. "I am pleased to say that environment continues to improve and now takes less SFOR intervention. However, the soldiers of SFOR 13 are well prepared to be persuasive in peace where and when necessary," said Mason.

SFOR 12 was the first rotation where the MNB (N) was made up of mostly National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers. The 49th Armored Division from the Texas Army National Guard was the first National Guard element to command MNB (N) for SFOR 7, followed by the 29th Infantry Division from the Virginia Army National Guard in SFOR 10. Those headquarters commanded active-component task forces. For SFOR 12, units of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard replaced those task forces.

SFOR 13 will continue that as three of the four U.S. task forces for MNB (N) include units



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

Members of the flag detail render a salute during the Transfer of Authority ceremony at the Peacekeeper Hall Monday.

from the 35th. Task Force Husker (North) is mostly made up of units from Nebraska. Task Force Orphan (South) has units from Kentucky and South Carolina. Task Force Warrior (Aviation) consists of 35th aviation assets. The fourth, Task Force Med Eagle, is primarily Army Reserve soldiers. Each of the task forces had separate transfer of authority ceremonies and have taken command of their respective responsibilities.

Mason noted that this wasn't the first time that the two divisions shared the spotlight. "History has once again provided an opportunity for two of America's great fighting divisions, the 28th and the 35th, to share the same field, on point for the nation, as they once did in World War

II, during the Battle of the Bulge."

Mason concluded with a directive to the 35th.

"It will take your capabilities, your technical knowledge, your tactical skill, your teamwork, and your professionalism as soldiers on point for each of our respective nations to make this mission successful. Sante Fe!"



by Spc. Guy Choate

Above: The colors are presented at the Task Force Aviation transfer of authority March 11.



by Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Covington

Left: Soldiers representing the nations of MNB (N) raise their flags in salute during the March 24 ceremony.

**1st Armored
Division**



**IFOR
12/95-11/96**

**1st Infantry
Division**



**SFOR/SFOR 1
11/96-10/97**

**1st Armored
Division**



**SFOR 2/3
10/97-10/98**

**1st Cavalry
Division**



**SFOR 4/5
10/98-8/99**

**10th Mountain
Division**



**SFOR 6
8/99-3/00**

takes over MNB (N)



Left: Members of Task Force North render a salute during the transfer of authority between SFOR 12 and SFOR 13 soldiers of Task Force North in the Camp McGovern gymnasium March 10.

by Staff Sgt. Jeff Murphy

Right: Brig. Gen. John von Trott, left, Lt. Col. Barry Searle, Task Force South commander for SFOR 12, and Lt. Col. Scott Campbell, Task Force South commander for SFOR 13, salute the colors during their March 18 transfer of authority ceremony.



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson



Left: Col. Daniel Dire, commander of Task Force Med Eagle, addresses the troops during his transfer of authority ceremony at the Air Force gymnasium March 14.

by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

Sante Fe Division has long history

The 35th Division was organized on Aug. 25, 1917, at Camp Doniphan, Okla., with National Guard units from Kansas and Missouri. The 35th Division's nickname – Santa Fe Division – along with its distinctive “wagon wheel” patch were derived from the Santa Fe Trail, which began in Missouri, ran through Kansas, and ended near Camp Doniphan.

The 35th deployed to France in May 1918 for World War I and participated in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive; Alsace, 1918; and Lorraine, 1918. Missouri Army National Guardsman Capt. Harry S. Truman (later 33rd president of the United States) served as a commander in Missouri's 129th Field Artillery. The 35th Division returned to the United States and was inactivated in May 1919.

On Sept. 13, 1935, the 35th Division was reorganized with units from Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt mobilized the 35th Division for World War II on Dec. 23, 1940. After four years of training, the division landed on Omaha Beach on July 5, 1944. During the ensuing eight months of combat, the division received five battle streamers: Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe. Six Presidential Unit Citations were awarded. One soldier received the Medal of Honor for heroism in combat. The division returned to the United States in July 1945 and was inactivated in December 1945.

The division was reorganized in October 1946 with units from Kansas and Missouri, but was inactivated in 1963. The division was again reorganized in 1984.

49th Armored Division



SFOR 7
3/00-10/00

3rd Infantry Division



SFOR 8/9
10/00-10/01

29th Infantry Division



SFOR 10
10/01-4/02

25th Infantry Division



SFOR 11
4/02-9/02

28th Infantry Division



SFOR 12
9/02-3/03

Leading the way: An introduction to SFOR 13 deployment 'chance to excel,' says Head



Col. James D. Head

by **Spc. Guy Choate**
343rd MPAD

What does being a member of Stabilization Force 13 mean to the soldiers here in Bosnia? For some, it's a chance to experience another country and a variety of cultures. For others, it's the experience of being in an every-day Army environment again.

For Col. James D. Head, the chief of Joint Military Affairs, "It's the realization of being a part of history with the challenges and opportunities to help shape the environment for a safe and secure country."

With background and experience listing every thing from commanding an armor battalion to being the defense movement officer for the Kentucky Army National Guard, Head said that he thinks this will be his most memorable assignment.

"This assignment is another opportunity to excel," said Head. "You're going to get out of this experience what you put into it."

Head has put almost 32 years into the Army, 24 of which as a commissioned officer. He plans to continue finding opportunities to excel until his mandatory retirement date.

While on this deployment, Head hopes

to have a successful mission and see his soldiers' safe return to their homes. He also plans to encourage his soldiers to take advantage of both the civilian and military educational opportunities that are available on Eagle Base.

At home, Head and his wife, Patricia, have three children: Brian 22, Jennifer, 21, and Jaime, 19. He is the general manager of a manufacturing company in his hometown of New Albany, Ind.

However, since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorists' attacks, he has been the stock record officer for the Kentucky Guard's Logistics Operation Center in Lexington.

When he does get some leisure time at home, he likes to either

spend it with his family, or spend it watching the National Football League's best battling it out on the field. But here in Bosnia, he does his part keeping the peace.

"You're going to get out of this experience what you put into it."

Wright: 'We have an opportunity to develop soldiers faster'

Mentoring is important in soldiering, anything you do

by **2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy**
35th ID PAO

Task Force Eagle and Multinational Brigade (North) Command Sgt. Maj. David Wright believes in the importance of mentoring others – it's a leadership attitude he acquired in his youth in Erie, Pa., by a father of strong work ethic, whom Wright remembers as, simply, a "good man."

Wright plans to convey that attitude to the other NCOs and soldiers in his command during his Stabilization Force 13.

"Mentoring is very important as soldiers, and in anything you do," said Wright, who added each soldier, through training, individual personality and observation of

others, should acquire his or her own unique style of leadership.

"We have an opportunity to develop soldiers faster here (in Bosnia) than we do as traditional National Guardsmen," Wright said.

Whether through guiding one's soldiers toward working on their education,

or building unit cohesiveness through sports or other forms of competition, Wright urges his NCOs to take the initiative toward making this rotation a success during both on-and-off-duty hours.

Wright's goals after deployment is to have a better-trained force, and "to have all of the soldiers come home safe and proud of what they've done."

Personally, Wright plans to continue as the 35th Infantry Division command ser-

"I've been in uniform for 36 years and I'm proud of this uniform, proud of the people I've served with."



Command Sgt. Maj. David S. Wright

geant major until retiring in 2006.

"I've been in uniform for 36 years," Wright said, "and I'm proud of this uniform, proud of the people I've served with. They're the best bunch of people you could find."

Wright lives in Topeka, Kan., with wife Beverly and has three children: Shelly, Laura and Jennifer. When not drilling with the Kansas Army National Guard, Wright works as a project leader in the Information Services Division of Blue Cross, Blue Shield of Kansas.

some of the command staff group

Johnson: 'The backbone of the Army is the NCO corps'



Col. Calvin S. Johnson

by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson
343rd MPAD

Col. Calvin S. Johnson, deputy commander of the Multinational Brigade (North) commands its multinational forces. He started his military career with a commission through the ROTC program at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro, N.C. A field artillery officer his entire life, Johnson has no regrets of his choice.

"It's definitely a good profession," said Johnson.

Johnson went on active duty upon graduation from college and served for 10 years. He spent three years in Germany,

with several deployments to places such as Korea and Turkey.

One of his most memorable commands was as a young battery commander in Germany. "Primarily because we had a closer sense of a real world mission," said Johnson.

"We were training to defend against the Soviet threat coming across the Fulda Gap. Training priorities were extremely high, and I like training."

He has had the chance to learn from many people throughout his career. One of the more notable was Gen. Colin Powell. Johnson says that he considers himself to be "extremely lucky" to have worked with now-Secretary of State Powell.

Johnson says he was "extremely fortunate to have excellent leaders, not just at the senior officer level, but at the NCO level, too." He learned early on as a young lieutenant to listen to his noncommissioned officers.

"The backbone of the Army is the NCO corps' is a true statement," said Johnson. "If you allow the NCOs to do their jobs, and empower that responsibility down, you'll get a lot accomplished."

Johnson looks at the deployment to Bosnia and Herzegovina as a unique opportunity. He said that one of his goals is "that by the time we leave here, we would have made a difference in the people's lives here in Bosnia and Herzegovina. To the

extent that they can see how the U.S., primarily the National Guard and some reservists, from different backgrounds, different faiths, different racial ethnicities, have been able to come together as a force and overcome their differences and get on with helping build this nation.

"I hope they can use us as an example as they rebuild," he said.

His advice to the troops here on the ground is to take advantage of a learning opportunity.

"If the average soldier, regardless of rank, just absorbs what's around them, working with a multinational staff, being able to make a significant impact in six months, it's a learning experience," Johnson said. "There are very few times in your life that your going to get an opportunity like this."

He has been designated to become the incoming assistant division commander for maneuver at the 35th and hopes to have his brigadier general star pinned on by his family after returning home.

He and his wife Vickie reside in Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and have three children in college: Veronica and Calvin Jr., both students at Howard University in Washington, D.C., and Sarah, a student at Highland Community College in Highland, Kan.

Johnson said, "This is where I want to be at this point in time in my life."

'The mission here is a great opportunity,' says Johnson

by Maj. Kirk Slaughter
35th ID PAO

Col. Thomas E. Johnson, deputy commander of Multinational Brigade (North) - US, commands its ground forces. He began his military career at age 17.

Early in life, Johnson learned the importance of discipline, respect, and hard work - values he continues to carry with him throughout his military career.

He learned most of these values from his mother and father. Johnson said the most important of the values is respect.

"My mother and father treated everybody with respect no matter who they were," said Johnson.

Johnson grew up believing that it was through his father's perseverance and dedication, that his family's construction busi-

ness in rural Nebraska was such a success.

"My father was a tough boss and treated everyone the same regardless of the job they did, including me," he said.

Similarly, Johnson plans to treat every soldier in Stabilization Force 13 the same, regardless of their rank. Johnson admits, however, that the ones who will really make

this deployment a success are the junior leaders.

"The junior leadership (have) the most important roles here," said Johnson, who stressed that the successful soldiers must know "what right looks like," a quote Johnson once heard which means soldiers

must be professional, well trained and disciplined to accomplish a mission.

Johnson expects every soldier to respect each other, the citizens of Bosnia and the soldiers of the multinational forces.

"The junior leadership have the most important roles here."



Col. Thomas E. Johnson

"The mission here is a great opportunity for the soldiers of SFOR 13," Johnson said.

"Our soldiers' leadership abilities will be forever changed after this mission. The success of this mission depends on them."

Johnson lives with his wife Janet in Omaha, Neb. He has three daughters: Lynn, Kathy, and Paula.

An introduction to the Talon staff

by Maj. James Billings
343rd MPAD

Normally, newspaper people avoid writing about themselves. But since most of us who work on this publication are new to you, we decided to take the opportunity to introduce ourselves.

First, my name is **Maj. James Billings**. I command the 343rd



Billings

Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, a U.S. Army Reserve unit in North Little Rock, Ark. Our headquarters is the 90th Regional Support Command, also based in North Little Rock, but responsible for Army Reserve units in Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico.

I've been a public affairs officer since 1994, after serving as an infantry officer in the Army Reserve. This is my second tour in Bosnia. I entered the Active Guard Reserve program when I got back from Bosnia in 1997 and the 343rd is my third assignment. I took command in October 2001. My wife, Stephanie, and I have three children: Marissa, Chanel and

Nathaniel.

Our editor for the Talon is **Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson**. Keith is a native Floridian who volunteered to be a part of our SFOR 13 mission. Although relatively new to public affairs, he has had a lot of experience and his articles and photos have been widely published.



Johnson

When he's not wearing his BDUs, Keith works for Florida Power and Light as a nuclear plant operator. He and his wife, Joan, have two daughters, Aimee and Katie.

Our assistant editor is **Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Covington** of Conway, Ark. Ron arrived at the 343rd in the summer of 2001 after serving



Covington

on active duty for 11 years as a combat engineer and Bradley mechanic. He graduated from the Defense Information School in July 2002. Although new to the field, Ron brings tremendous enthusiasm

with him. He served on active duty for 11 years, including service with the 1st Cavalry Division during Operation Desert Storm.

In civilian life, he is a maintenance technician with Videojet Technologies Inc. He and his wife, Joanna, have three children: Cassandra, Ronald Jr. and Chris.

Also writing for the Talon is **Spec. Guy Choate**, who joined the the 343rd and the Army Reserve in 1999. A resident of Little Rock, he is majoring in profes-



Choate

sional and technical writing with an emphasis in nonfiction, and he is minoring in journalism. Although he is not married and has no children, he is quite attached to a vehicle he lovingly calls "Spacehog."

Rounding out our staff as managing editor and media operations officer is **2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy**, who belongs to the 35th ID public affairs office. With more than 12 years of public-affairs experience, we are glad to have him as part of the team. Dunphy spent more than eight years in the Army Reserve and National Guard as a jour-

nalist and broadcaster, including three years on active duty as editor of the Lamp at Fort Leavenworth.

In civilian life, Chris transacts mutual funds for an investment company in Kansas City. He has a degree in English literature and radio, television and film from the University of Maryland-College Park. He also is pursuing his master's degree in business administration. He lives in Parkville, Mo., with his wife, Lisa, and two children, Gina, 8, and Sean, 5.



Dunphy

These are the main players on the Talon, but there are others who make this whole thing work.

I'll tell you about them next week. But the contributor we're really looking for is you. We're counting on you to help us make this *your* magazine.

Call us or e-mail us with your story suggestions. Perhaps you know someone interesting in your unit. Maybe you've written something you'd like to see printed. Elsewhere in this issue we've included our submission guidelines. Please take a look at them.

Standing tall

Sgt. Robin Trosper renders salute during the recent Transfer of Authority ceremony at Peacekeeper Hall on Eagle Base. The ceremony marked the transition from the "Keystone Division" and Stabilization Force rotation of the 28th Infantry Division (Mechanized) to the SFOR 13 rotation of the 35th Infantry Division (Mechanized), which is headquartered on Fort Leavenworth, Kan. The event marked the first time in the history of the U.S. contribution of NATO-led peacekeepers that back-to-back rotations were made up predominantly of National Guard and Reserve personnel or "citizen-soldiers." Approximately 1,500 U.S. soldiers and 22 states comprise SFOR 13.

by Spec. Guy Choate

